

Message Text

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47

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 L-03 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:TROESCH:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

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P 261356Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: POSSIBLE VISIT OF U.S. CIVAIR GROUP
TO MANILA

1. IN ORDER TO DISCUSS GOP OPEN SKIES PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION AT FIRST HAND WITH PHILIPPINE CIVAIR AUTHORITIES, SMALL DELEGATION (2-3) FROM EB/OA AND CAB WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MANILA AND MEET INFORMALLY WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. U.S. MAY WISH INCLUDE AIRLINE INDUSTRY OBSERVER IN DELEGATION.
2. REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS REGARDING STATUS OPEN SKIES PROGRAM AND SUITABILITY OF LOW KEY USG APPROACH. SUGGEST 2 DAY VISIT BE MADE IN PERIOD SEPTEMBER 8-15. PLEASE CONFIRM IF GOP CIVAIR OFFICIALS WOULD BE AVAILABLE, IF TRIP MATERIALIZES.
3. VISIT WOULD BE INFORMAL AND EXPLORATORY. IN PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITUATION (PAA, NW AND FTL WITH APPLICATIONS TO PHIL CAB

AND PAL WITH APPLICATION TO USCAB), BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO BE WAITING FOR OTHER TO ACT. U.S. AIRLINES SEE SUBSTANTIAL POTENTIAL IN PHILIPPINE MARKET UNDER TERMS OF OPEN SKIES AND, ASSUMING FORTHCOMING PHIL ATTITUDE, WE BELIEVE U.S.

MIGHT BE ABLE ALSO BE FORTHCOMING. GIVEN PAST PROPENSITY OF PHILIPPINE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LIBERAL AVIATION POLICY TO ERODE AS PAL REASSERTS ITS RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDES, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO GO DIRECTLY INTO FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT FIRST TESTING WATER. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS EVIDENT THAT, IF THERE IS PROSPECT OF EXPANDING CIVIL AIR RELATIONS, THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE THROUGH NEGOTIATION OF A NEW OR AMENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNDERSTANDING. KISSINGER

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